REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the detailed examination evidenced by the Office
Action. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 16, 17, 19, and 21 have been amended to clarify their
independent bases for patentability over the cited references. Applicant requests
reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections in view of the above
amendments and the following remarks.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 are Patentable Over Tanaka

Independent Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as
unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0001223 to Tanaka
(hereinafter "Tanaka").

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

1.   A method of routing print files in a computer system, the
method comprising:
        *evaluating content of at least one print file based on a routing policy,
wherein the print file is configured by an application for printing on a printer
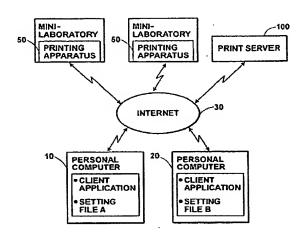device*; and
        selectively routing the print file based on the evaluated content of the
at least one print file.

Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the file whose content
is evaluated based on a routing policy is a *print file* that is configured by an
application for printing on a printer device. The *print file* is selectively routed based
on its evaluated content.

Tanaka describes a personal computer (10) that has a client application and a
separate setting file (A), and another personal computer (20) that has a client
application and a separate setting file (B), as shown in FIG. 1 of Tanaka below.

FIG. 1 of Tanaka

The client applications and setting files (A), (B) are installed in the personal computer (10) from media "distributed as supplements of magazines A and B." (Tanaka, Para. 39). Tanaka describes the setting files (A),(B) as follows:

> The setting files A and B attached to the client applications respectively have information representing the name of the corresponding magazine as a distribution route, the name of a privilege service available to the client application, and an effective time period of the privilege service."
> (Tanaka, Para. 39).

Accordingly, the setting files (A),(B) identify from what magazine a client obtained the files (e.g., "distribution route" can be "magazine A" or "magazine B"), the type of service available to the client (e.g., "privilege service" can be the number of free print outs available), and an expiration date for the service. Tanaka illustrates the printing process by the personal computers (10),(20) and print server (100) in FIGS. 4 and 5, below.

FIG. 4 of Tanaka

```
                    ( START )
                         |  S10
              [ SEND SETTING FILE ]
                         |  S12
              [ UPLOAD IMAGES ]
                         |  S14
              [ ORDER PRINTING ]
                         |  S16
              [ INPUT FOR INVOICE ]
                         |
                    ( END )
```
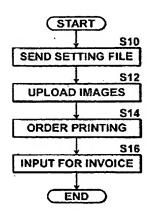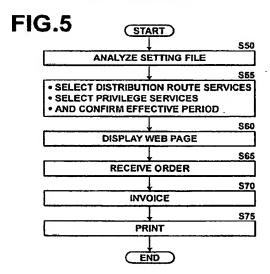
FIG. 5 of Tanaka

FIG.5

```
                    ( START )
                         |  S50
       [        ANALYZE SETTING FILE        ]
                         |  S55
       [ • SELECT DISTRIBUTION ROUTE SERVICES ]
       [ • SELECT PRIVILEGE SERVICES          ]
       [ • AND CONFIRM EFFECTIVE PERIOD       ]
                         |  S60
       [          DISPLAY WEB PAGE          ]
                         |  S65
       [          RECEIVE ORDER            ]
                         |  S70
       [            INVOICE                ]
                         |  S75
       [             PRINT                 ]
                         |
                    ( END )
```

Tanaka describes that the personal computer 10 initially sends the setting file

(A) (step S10) to the print server (100) which defines the services that are available to

the client and an expiration date for the services. The personal computer (10) then

separately uploads the images (step S12) to the print server (100). The print server

(100) analyzes the setting file (step S50) and, based on the settings in the setting file,

prints the uploaded images (step S75) and generates an invoice for the printing (S70).

Consequently, the image file that is uploaded to the print server (100) by the personal

computer 10 is a print file that is configured by the personal computer (10) for printing (step S75). In contrast, the setting file (A) is not a print file because it is not configured to be printed and, indeed, it is not printed by the print server (100).

Nowhere does Tanaka describe or suggest that the contents of the print file (i.e., the uploaded image file) are evaluated or, much less, that is evaluated based on a routing policy. Consequently, Tanaka also does not describe or suggest that the print file is selectively routed based on evaluation of the contents of the print file itself.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Tanaka because Tanaka does not describe or suggest evaluating content of at least one print file based on a routing policy, and it does not describe or suggest selectively routing the print file based on its evaluated content.

Independent Claim 11 is a computer program product claim that has been amended to include recitations that correspond to those of amended Claim 1 and, consequently, is submitted to be patentable over Tanaka for at least the reasons explained with regard to Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16 are patentable at least per the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend. Moreover, these claims are submitted to provide independent basis for patentability.

Dependent Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16 are Patentable Over Tanaka

Dependent Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0001223 to Tanaka (hereinafter "Tanaka").

Dependent Claims 6 and 16 have been amended to recite that the print file is selectively routed to non-printer device instead of to a printer device in response to the evaluated content of the print file. As explained above, Tanaka describes that the image files uploaded to the print server (100) are printed (step S75 in FIG. 5). The Office Action refers to paragraph 44 of Tanaka which describes that the setting file is analyzed (step S50, FIG. 5) to obtain information that can be displayed on a WEB page (S60, FIG. 5) to query a client for instructions on how to print the uploaded

image file (See Tanaka, FIG. 7). Neither the cited paragraph of Tanaka nor elsewhere does Tanaka describe or suggest that the print file is selectively routed to a non-printer device instead of to a printer device based on evaluation of the print file and a routing policy. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Claims 6 and 16 are patentable over Tanaka.

Dependent Claims 7 and 17 have been amended to recite that the print file is selectively posted on a WEB page instead being routed to a printer device for printing based on evaluation of the print file and a routing policy. As explained above with regard to Claims 6 and 16, Tanaka describes that the setting file is used to display information on a WEB page to query a client for printing instructions so that the print file can be printed. Tanaka, does not describe that the print file itself can be selectively posted on a WEB page instead of printing it based on evaluation of the content of the print file and a routing policy. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Claims 7 and 17 are patentable over Tanaka.

Dependent Claims 9 and 19 have been amended to recite that information from the print file is selectively imported into a spreadsheet application, a word processor, and/or a database application instead of being routed to a printer device based on evaluation of the content of the print file and a routing policy. Tanaka, does not describe selectively importing information from a print file to a spreadsheet, word processor, and/or database application based on evaluation of the content of the print file and a routing policy. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Claims 9 and 19 are patentable over Tanaka.

Independent Claims 21 is Patentable Over Tanaka in view of Luo

Independent Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tanaka in view of "Content Management on Server Farm with Layer-7 Routing" by Luo (hereinafter "Luo").

Claim 21 has been amended and now recites::

21.   (Currently Amended) A method of routing print files in a computer system, the method comprising:

searching content of a print file to identify one or more keywords that are defined by a routing policy, wherein the print file is configured by an application for printing on a printer device; and

selectively renaming the print file based on identifying the one or more keywords in the print file instead of routing the print file to a printing device.

Accordingly, Claim 21 has been amended to clarify that the print file is configured by an application for printing on a printing device, and that the print file is selectively renamed based on identifying one or more keywords in the print file that are defined by a routing policy instead of routing the print file to a printing device. In rejecting subject matter of Claim 21, the Office Action on page 5 concedes that "Tanaka does not disclose expressly renaming the print file." Moreover, for the reasons explained above with regard to the rejections of Claim 1, Applicant submits that Tanaka does not disclose searching the content of a print file to identify one or more keywords and, further, does not disclose searching the print file for keywords defined by a routing policy.

Although Luo describes a process for managing files in which files are renamed based on their content, nowhere does Luo describe that a print file is searched to identify one or more keywords that are defined by a routing policy, or that the print file is selectively renamed based identification of keywords of the routing policy instead of routing the print file to a printing device.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 21 is patentable over Tanaka in view of Luo.

CONCLUSION

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims for at least the reasons discussed above. Applicant further submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400 to resolve any remaining issues.

In re: Harry Michael Schell
Serial No.: 10/627,110
Filed: July 25, 2003
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 12, 2006.

Audra Wooten